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POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Letter dated 11 April 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Botswana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit for your information a copy of a press release issued by the Foreign Ministers of the front-line States, Nigeria, and the representatives of the African National Congress of South Africa and the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania on 9 April 1991, at a consultative meeting, held at Gaborone, Botswana (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 34.

(Signed) Legwaila J. M. J. LEGWAILA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Press release issued on 9 April 1991 by the Foreign Ministers of the front-line States, Nigeria and the representatives of the African National Congress of South Africa and the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania at a consultative meeting, held at Gaborone, Botswana

1. The Foreign Ministers of the front-line States, Nigeria, and the representatives of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) held a consultative meeting at Gaborone, Republic of Botswana, on 9 April 1991. The meeting discussed in depth the current developments inside South Africa following detailed briefs by ANC and PAC, namely, the question of sanctions, violence and constitutional arrangements.

2. While noting positive developments in some areas, the Foreign Ministers expressed disappointment and concern at the lack of substantive progress in such key domains as ending the violence, unconditional release of political prisoners, the unconditional return of political exiles and the establishment of a democratic forum to draw up a non-racial democratic constitution. In particular, the Foreign Ministers expressed grave concern at the unprecedented escalation of violence currently being witnessed inside apartheid South Africa.

3. The Foreign Ministers held the regime in Pretoria directly responsible for most of the continued escalation of the senseless carnage, and demanded that the Pretoria regime take urgent practical steps to put an immediate end to the current State-sponsored carnage of innocent people. The meeting noted with concern the redeployment inside South Africa of Buffalo Battalion 32, Koevoet, Renamo and other Civil Cooperation Bureau formations to instigate as well as commit acts of violence.

4. The Foreign Ministers urged all South Africans to exercise maximum restraint and political tolerance among themselves.

5. The Foreign Ministers welcomed the forthcoming meeting in Zimbabwe between the national executives of ANC and PAC in April 1991, and supported the call for the convening of a Patriotic Conference of the Oppressed during May 1991. The Foreign Ministers remained convinced that a United Front of all organizations of the oppressed would greatly accelerate the realization of a genuine non-racial democratic society in a united South Africa.

6. The Foreign Ministers commended the South African liberation movements for their tenacity, under very trying conditions, in the prosecution of the liberation struggle.

7. The Foreign Ministers further commended the Governments of Angola and Mozambique for their continued search for lasting peace in their respective countries.

8. The Foreign Ministers of the front-line States, Nigeria and the representatives of the liberation movements were graciously received by His Excellency the President, Dr. Q. K. J. Masire, who encouraged and wished them success in their deliberations.

9. The Foreign Ministers of the front-line States, Nigeria and the liberation movements further expressed their gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Botswana for hosting the meeting and for the warm hospitality extended to all the participants.

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